



Discovering learning content
Searching and browsing using Scootle

Overview

Basic search



Basic search functionality is provided from every page of the Scootle website via the search box.

The screenshot shows the Scootle website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Scootle logo and a search box. Below the search box is a menu with links: Home, Advanced search, Find by learning area, Find on map, Find on timeline, A to Z, and Learning paths. The main content area features a section titled "Learn, teach and collaborate using digital curriculum resources from The Le@rning Federation." with icons for various resources. Below this, there are several sections: "Browse by topic" with a list of subjects, "Organise and share resources with learning paths" with a description and a photo of a teacher and student, "New to Scootle?" with a list of new features, "Popular search terms" with a list of terms, "New digital curriculum resources" with three resource cards, "What others are using" with a list of resources, and "Scootle's on Twitter!" with a tweet.

Search box

This search box is available at the top of every page in Scootle. With it, you can search the full repository of digital curriculum resources. Searched fields include the title, description, topic, keyword and catalogue entry ID fields.

You can search using

- a single keyword
- multiple keywords separated by spaces
- Boolean operators OR, AND, NOT
- an exact phrase inside double quotation marks.

Scootle is limited to displaying 500 search results.

Overview

Advanced search



The **Advanced search** page presents a number of filters, allowing you to perform a more specific search.

Source
Use these check boxes to determine which sources will be included in your search.
If you want to include web resources, select **Web based resources**.
If you want to include content from the National Digital Learning Resource Network (previously The Le@rning Federation), select **TLF**.

Publication date
You may select content according to the time period in which it was published in the repository. (This should not be confused with resources that describe a certain time period or the original creation date of a digital resource.)

Dates may be entered using the DD/MM/YYYY format (day-month-year, e.g. 12/04/2006), or by using the calendar icon and selecting a date from the drop-down calendar.

Most content was published after November 2003, so selecting earlier dates will not provide useful results.

Keyword and topics
Enter keyword(s) in the **Search for** field and, if you prefer, select a topic to search using the topic drop-down box.
You may select only one topic, including **All Topics**.

Fields
This section allows you to specify fields to search against. You may include multiple metadata fields in your search.

Resource type
The **Resource type** selection tick boxes allow you to restrict your search to specific types of content. By default, the search covers all content types.
If neither **Learning objects** nor **Collections** is selected, the **Year level** and **Learning area** sections collapse. This is because learning objects are designed for specific learning audiences.

Year level
The **Year level** section allows you to choose the audience the resources are aimed at based on schooling year levels.
You may select multiple year levels.

The screenshot shows the Scootle Advanced Search interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the Scootle logo and a 'Search' button. Below this is a navigation bar with links: Home, Advanced search (highlighted), Find by learning area, Find on map, Find on timeline, A to Z, and Learning paths. The main search area is titled 'Restrict search to:' and contains several sections: 'Fields' with checkboxes for All fields, Title, Description, Topic, TLF-ID, Educational value statement, Key learning objectives, and User contributed tags; 'Resource type' with checkboxes for All types, Learning object, Image, Audio, Video, Collection, Teacher resource, and Assessment resource; 'Year level' with checkboxes for All year levels, P-2, 7-8, 3-4, 9-10, 5-6, and 11-12, and a 'Learning area' dropdown menu; 'Source' with checkboxes for All, Web based resources, and TLF; 'Published between' with two date input fields (DD/MM/YYYY) and a calendar icon; and 'Resource provider' with a dropdown menu. At the bottom right of the search area are 'Search' and 'Clear search' buttons. Annotations with lines point to various elements: 'Keyword and topics' points to the search bar; 'Fields' points to the 'Fields' section; 'Resource type' points to the 'Resource type' section; 'Year level' points to the 'Year level' section; 'Source' points to the 'Source' section; 'Publication date' points to the 'Published between' section; 'Resource provider' points to the 'Resource provider' section; 'Search/Clear Search buttons' points to the 'Search' and 'Clear search' buttons; and 'Learning area' points to the 'Learning area' dropdown menu.

Resource provider
You can restrict your search to include only content provided by a certain institution or content provider, such as the Archives Office of Tasmania or the Powerhouse Museum.

Search/Clear Search buttons
Once you have specified your search criteria, select **Search** to search the repository. Select **Clear search** to restore all default search criteria.

Learning area
You can select a learning area by using the **Learning area** drop-down list.
Only one learning area can be selected at a time.

How to Find content by learning area



Step 1 Choose a learning area



Begin by selecting **Find by learning area** on the Navigation bar and choosing a learning area from the drop-down list.

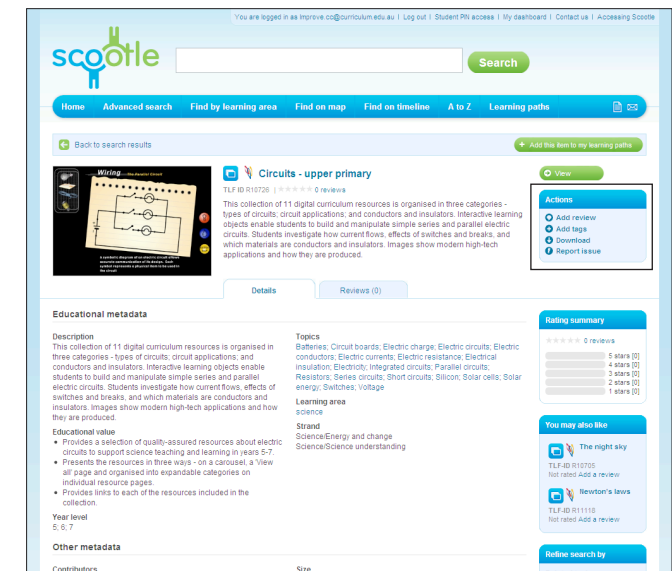
Step 2 View results in a list



The page displays all digital curriculum resources that fall within the learning area you selected. Use the page navigation area to view more content.

To view a digital curriculum resource select **View**. To view the details of a resource select **Details**.

Step 3 View the details of a resource



When viewing the details of a digital curriculum resource you can add reviews and tags, download the content or report an issue.

For more information see page 25.

How to Find content by location

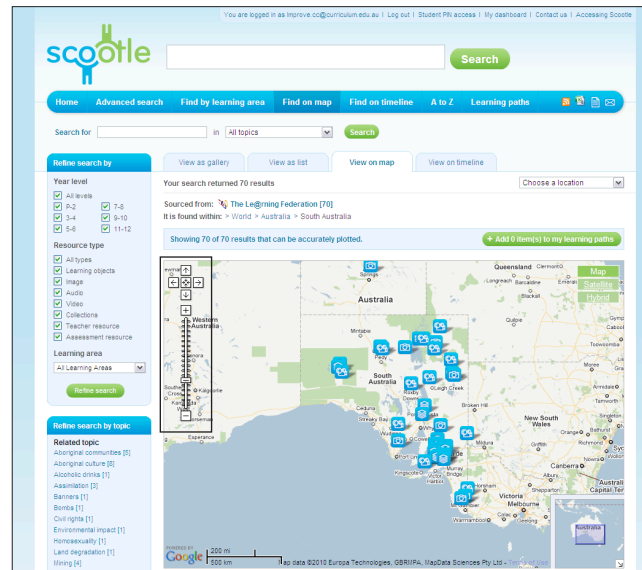


Step 1 Choose a location



Begin by selecting **Find on map** on the Navigation bar, and selecting an Australian state or territory, or **New Zealand** or **World**, in the drop-down list.

Step 2 View results on a map



To move around the map, you can click and drag on the map or use the sliders in the top left-hand corner. You can zoom in and out using the slider on the left-hand side of the map.

By selecting the **Choose a location** drop-down list you can view a different location as per step 1.

Step 3 Preview the learning content



Select an icon to preview the digital curriculum resource.

Scroll down to read more of the description and view other options for the content. Select the title to view the details of the content. To save it in a learning path, highlight **Select object for favourites**, then select **+ Add (number) item(s) to my learning paths**. To close the preview and continue using the map select the (x) icon in the top right-hand corner of the preview.

Some locations have multiple resources. This is indicated by the icon. Select it to view multiple previews for a location and scroll down to view all the previews. Many, but not all, of the available digital curriculum resources are tagged against a specific location.

How to Find content by time



Step 1 Specify a time frame



Start by selecting **Find on timeline** in the Navigation bar, and selecting a period of time in the drop-down list.

Step 2 View results on a timeline



When you select a time range, the search results are displayed as icons on a timeline. You can further refine your results by entering keywords or selecting a topic.

Navigate the timeline by clicking and dragging left or right within any of the three timeline scales.

Step 3 Preview the learning content



Select an icon on the timeline to preview the learning content. Scroll down inside the preview to read more of the description and view other options. Select the title to view details of the content. To save it in a learning path, highlight **Select object for favourites** and select **+ Add (number) item(s) to my learning paths**. To close the preview and continue using the timeline, select the (x) icon in the top right-hand corner of the preview. Much, but not all, of the available learning content is tagged against a specific time period.

How to Browse content alphabetically

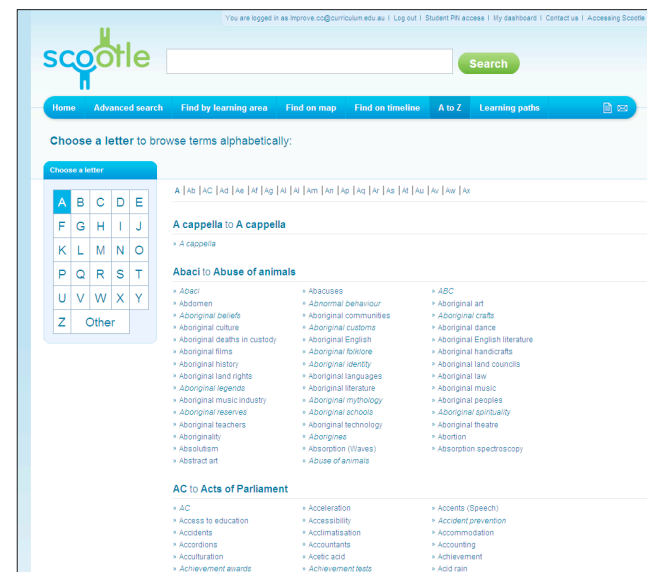


Step 1 Select the A to Z tab



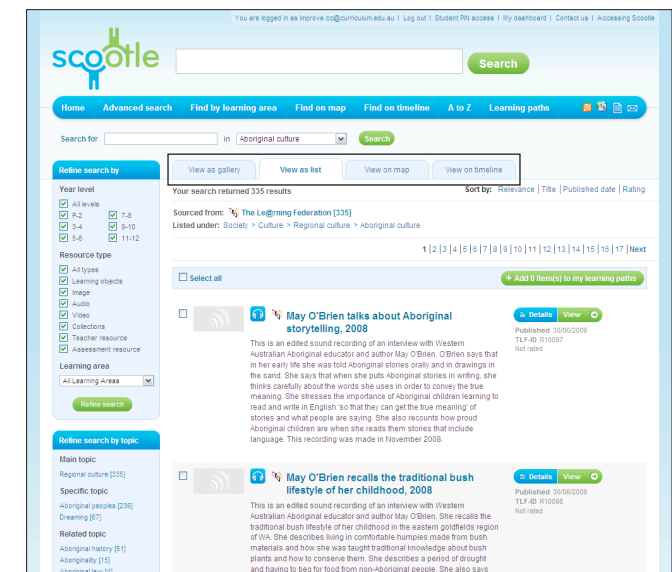
The **A to Z** tab on the Navigation bar allows you to browse learning content using a list of alphabetically grouped keywords.

Step 2 Choose a letter and select a keyword



You can choose a letter of the alphabet, each of which is divided into alphabetically sorted keywords and key phrases. Select a keyword or phrase to view the matching learning content. In order to help you find content more quickly, a keyword in *italics* acts as an alias for another keyword. For example, selecting ***A cappella*** will display all learning content for the keyword **Vocal music**.

Step 3 Browse the search results



You can view the search results as a list (default), as a gallery, on a map or on a timeline by selecting the appropriate tab. Find out more about changing the search results view on page 22.

How to Browse content by topic



Step 1 Choose a topic

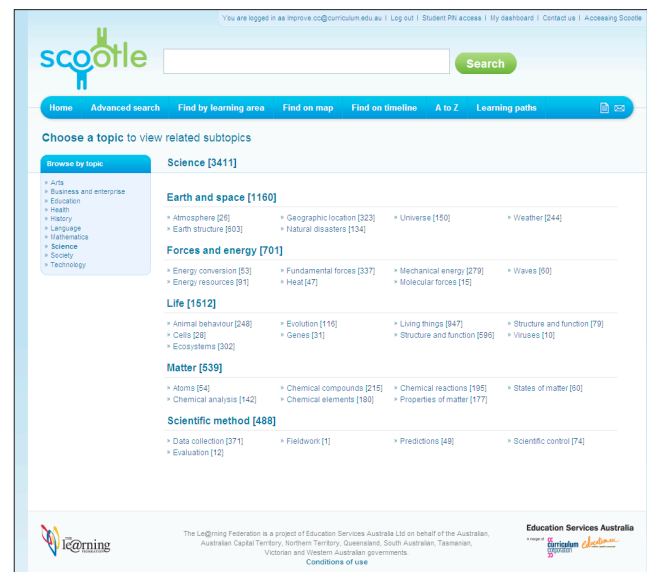


The **Browse by topic** area of the home page allows you to browse learning content by topic.

Topics are structured using a controlled education vocabulary – Schools Online Thesaurus (ScOT)* – and include Arts, Business and enterprise, Education, Health, History, Language, Mathematics, Science, Society, and Technology.

• For further information about ScOT, visit <http://scot.curriculum.edu.au/>.

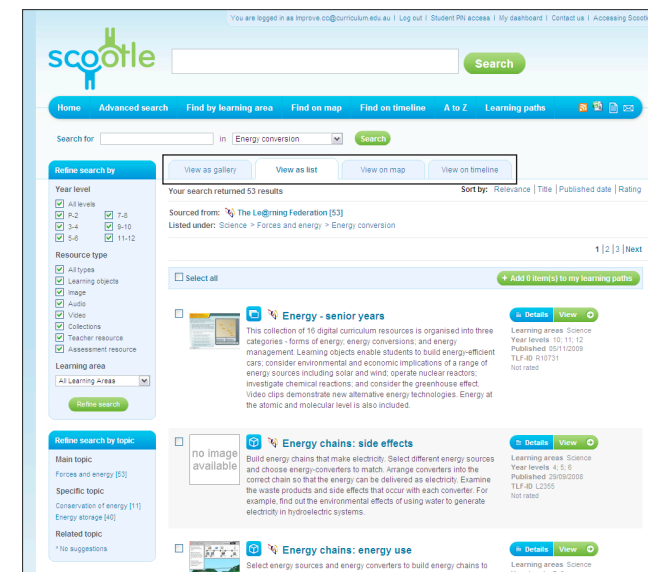
Step 2 View all subtopics within a topic



Selecting a topic takes you to a page that shows all subtopics, including numbers of resources for each subtopic. Each subtopic is further divided into relevant keywords.

In the above example, the **Science** topic matches 3,411 items of digital curriculum content. **Earth and space**, one subtopic of **Science**, matches 1,160 items. One of the keywords relevant to **Earth and space** is **Geographic location**, which matches 323 items.

Step 3 Browse the search results



You can view the search results as a list (default), as a gallery, on a map or on a timeline by selecting the appropriate tab. Find out more about changing the search results view on page 22.